

# SENATE . . . . . No. 80

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

**Steven A. Tolman**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Steven A. Tolman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk and Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S00123 OF 2007-2008.]

## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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### **AN ACT PROVIDING FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR VISION SCREENING FOR CHILDREN .**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority  
of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2   section 17H the following section:

3   Section 17I. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the  
4   commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a  
5   vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten,  
6   pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter  
7   181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the  
8   department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the  
9   department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

10   For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with  
11   neurodevelopmental delay, the commission shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye

examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10A the following section:

Section 10B. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, the division shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 110I the following section:

Section 110M. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of

section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting after section 8V the following section:-

Section 8W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian

indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4V the following section:-

Section 4W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4N the following section:-

Section 4O. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of

75 Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening  
76 shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in  
77 vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with  
78 the department of education.

79 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with  
80 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination  
81 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian  
82 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of  
83 follow-up treatment, if necessary.